

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claim 1.(Original) A scanning optical apparatus in which an image writing light flux that is modulated by an image signal, emitted from light source means is deflected by deflecting means to scan a surface to be scanned via imaging means, comprising:

ghost exposure amount calculation means for calculating a position on the surface to be scanned at which ghost light from a component of the scanning optical apparatus disposed in an optical path through which a light flux emitted from said light source means passes appears and an exposure amount thereof, based on precedently stored relationship of the position at which ghost light appears and the exposure amount thereof to the light flux emitted from said light source and on said image signal;

exposure amount control means for controlling an emitted light amount of the light flux emitted from said light source means or a pulse width of the light flux emitted from said light source means based on a result of said calculation.

Claim 2. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ghost light includes light that is generated by internal surface reflection of a scanning optical element included in said imaging means and arrives at said surface to be scanned.

Claim 3. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ghost light includes light that is reflected from a surface of a scanning optical element included in said imaging means and incident on said deflecting means again and arrives at said surface to be scanned.

Claim 4. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said ghost light includes light that comes from a surface of a chassis supporting scanning optical elements included in said deflecting means and said imaging means and arrives at said surface to be scanned.

Claim 5. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said precedently stored relationship of the position at which ghost light appears and the exposure amount to the light flux emitted from said light source is related to a main scanning direction.

Claim 6. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said precedently stored relationship of the position at which ghost light appears and the exposure amount to the light flux emitted from said light source is related to a main scanning direction and a sub scanning direction.

Claim 7. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a scanning optical element included in said imaging means comprises a plastic lens.

Claim 8. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said light source means comprises a multi-beam light source that emits a plurality of light fluxes that are modulated independently.

Claim 9. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus in which a plurality of image writing light fluxes that are modulated by different image signals, emitted from plurality of light source means are deflected by deflecting means to opposite directions to scan a plurality of surfaces to be scanned via plurality of imaging means, comprising:

ghost exposure amount calculation means for calculating a position on the surface to be scanned at which ghost light from a component of the scanning optical apparatus disposed in an optical path through which a light flux emitted from said light source means passes appears and an exposure amount thereof, based on precedently stored relationship of the position at which ghost light appears and the exposure amount thereof to the light flux emitted from said light source and on said image signal;

exposure amount control means for controlling an emitted light amount of the light flux emitted from said light source means or a pulse width of the light flux emitted from said light source means based on a result of said calculation.

Claim 10. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said ghost light includes light that is generated by internal surface reflection of a scanning optical element included in said imaging means and arrives at said surface to be scanned.

Claim 11. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said ghost light includes light that is reflected from a surface of a scanning optical element included in said imaging means and incident on said deflecting means again and arrives at said surface to be scanned.

Claim 12. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said ghost light includes light that comes from a surface of a chassis supporting scanning optical elements included in said deflecting means and said imaging means and arrives at said surface to be scanned.

Claim 13. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said precedently stored relationship of the position at which ghost light appears and the exposure amount to the light flux emitted from said light source is related to a main scanning direction.

Claim 14. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said precedently stored relation of the position at which ghost light appears and the exposure amount to the light flux emitted from said light source is related to a main scanning direction and a sub scanning direction.

Claim 15. (Original) A scanning optical system according to claim 9, wherein a scanning optical element included in said imaging means comprises a plastic lens.

Claim 16. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said light source means comprises a multi-beam light source that emits a plurality of light fluxes that are modulated independently.

Claim 17. (Original) A scanning optical apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said ghost light includes light reflected from a surface of a scanning optical element included in said imaging means and arriving at an opposite surface to be scanned.

Claim 18. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:
a scanning optical apparatus according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 1 to 17~~;
a photosensitive member disposed at said surface to be scanned;
a developing device for developing an electrostatic latent image formed on said photosensitive member by a light flux scanned by said scanning optical apparatus as a toner image;
a transferring device for transferring said developed toner image onto a transfer destination material; and
a fixing device for fixing the transferred toner image on the transfer destination material.

Claim 19. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus comprising:
a scanning optical apparatus according to ~~any one of claim[[s]] 9 to 17~~;

a plurality of photosensitive members disposed at said plurality of surfaces to be scanned;

a plurality of developing devices for developing electrostatic latent images formed on said photosensitive members by light fluxes scanned by said scanning optical apparatus as toner images;

a transferring device for transferring said developed toner images onto a transfer destination material; and

a fixing device for fixing the transferred toner image on the transfer destination material.

Claim 20. (Currently Amended) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a scanning optical apparatus according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]] 1 to 17; and

a printer controller that converts code data input from an external device into an image signal and input it to said scanning optical system.

Claim 21. (Currently Amended) A color image forming apparatus comprising:

a scanning optical apparatus according to ~~any one of claim~~[[s]]9 to 17; and

a printer controller that converts code data input from an external device into an image signal and input it to said scanning optical system.